

Foster Parent Spotlight



Ramona Collett

Ramona Collett is a proud mother of three children. Her daughter Alicia is 25, Rob is 13 and Alex is 11. She also has two grandchildren, ages 4 and 1.

Ramona works as a Medical Biller at Aurora Health Care. She has been working there for 4 ½ years. She recently passed the State test to become a Medical Coder, and she is excited to be looking for a new position soon.

Ramona has been licensed as a Foster Parent for two years now.

Since becoming licensed, she has had six children placed in her home. Ramona not only does Foster Care, but provides Respite Care as well. Ramona became a Foster Parent because she wanted to give other children what her children were able to have. She wanted to provide lots of love, support, attention and understanding to other children.

When asked about PACE Training, Ramona stated that if she could do it all over again, she would. She felt it was an excellent training, presented by well-educated teachers. Ramona feels that any new Foster Parent will benefit from the classes.

Ramona and her children enjoy doing things as a family. Alex loves to play baseball and watch the Packers. Rob enjoys music and going to the Gun

Club. They also enjoy swimming, cooking and having picnics at the beach.

Ramona's Words of Wisdom for new Foster Parents is to take the courses and learn a lot. Be open to new ideas and support the foster child. Give as much love and attention as possible and learn as you go. Never be afraid to ask questions or ask for help.

Ramona enjoys having children in her home and watching her boys interact with them. Both Alex and Rob say they like having Foster siblings because they get a chance to make new friends, have fun together and be able to help other children at the same time.



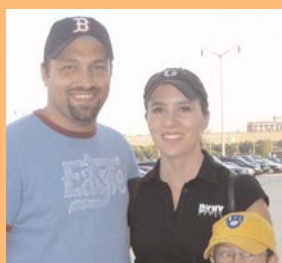
**Waukesha County
Health & Human Services**

September 2006



Foster Care Forum

Families having fun at the Foster Family Appreciation Event at Miller Park!



Contact Numbers:

Waukesha H & HS
262-548-7212

Eve Altizer Children's Mental
Health Outreach
262-548-7310

Crisis Mentoring Pager
414-848-6711

Medical Emergency: 911
Family Emergency: 211

Judy David
Support Group President
414-671-3747
(home) 414-462-8446

Lisa Alden, Supervisor
262-548-7271

Shari Rather,
Foster Care Coordinator
262-548-7267

Valerie Wozniak
Visitation Coordinator
262-896-6849

July '06 Placements

Regular Foster Care:
46 Children
1 Admitted
8 Discharged

Treatment Foster Care:
26 Children
0 Admitted
0 Discharged

Group Homes
2 Children
0 Admitted
2 Discharged

Residential
15 Children
0 Admitted
0 Discharged

Relative
56 Children
1 Admitted
3 Discharged

Social Workers:

Bob Alioto
262-548-7262

Peggy Beisser
262-548-7261

Kathe Blum
262-548-7275

Barb Hufschmidt
262-548-7270

Margaret Johnson
262-548-7265

Suzanne Koberstein
262-548-7348

Elizabeth Russo
262-548-7349

Kim Sampson
262-548-7273

Linda Senger
262-548-7698

Marilyn Videgar
262-548-7363

Ted Wuerslin
262-548-7269

Jennifer Wygle
262-548-7260

We Need You!

For more information
about becoming a
foster parent in
Waukesha County,
please contact Shari
Rather at:

srather@waukeshacounty.gov
262-548-7267

or visit our website at
www.waukeshacounty.gov
and follow the links to
foster care.

Family Resource Center Events, Sep. 06

Adult Adoptee Support Group

- Wednesday, September 6, 2006
- 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Information, support and resources for adult adoptees
- This is a FREE event

Adoption Goes to School

- Wednesday, September 13, 2006
- 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Learn about the many issues facing adopted children in the school setting
- \$5 per person/\$8 per twosome

Great Families Support Group

- Saturday, September 16, 2006
- 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Support group for parents of special needs adoption
- This is a FREE event

Adopted Teens & Tweens Unite! Support Group

- Tuesday, September 19, 2006
- 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- A support group for adoptees 11-17 years old
- This is a FREE event

Advanced Parenting for Challenging Children Workshop

- Tuesdays, 9/19 – 10/24, 2006
- 6 – 8:30 p.m.
- Become more patient with your child, help your child be more responsive to you and achieve peace for your family
- \$115 per person/\$135 per twosome

Guatemala Night

- Wednesday, September 20, 2006
- 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Join the Latin American Adoptive Families (LAAF) support group in discussing adoption from Guatemala
- This is a FREE event

WWK – Adopting a Child from Foster Care

- Saturday, September 23, 2006
- 6 – 9 p.m.
- Waukesha Public Library
321 Wisconsin Avenue,
Waukesha
- This workshop presents an opportunity for families considering adoption to learn about special needs adoption and how to become a Wendy's Wonderful Family
- This is a FREE event

"I didn't do it, I swear": The Lying Game

- Wednesday, September 27, 2006
- 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Learn reasons why your children lie and ways to diminish the lying
- \$5 per person/\$8 per twosome

PACE Training Fall 2006 Waukesha County

- 9/7/06 - Teambuilding
- 9/14/06 - Child Abuse and Neglect
- 9/21/06 - Child Development
- 9/30/06 - Attachment, Separation & Placement
- 9/30/06 - Behavior Management
- 10/5-06 - Cultural Issues in Placement
- 10/12/06 - Primary Families
- 10/21/06 - Sexual Abuse
- 10/21/06 - Effect of Caregiving
- 10/26/06 - Permanency Issues for Children
- 11/02/06 - Permanency Issues for Families

All classes will be held at the Human Services Center in the Brookfield Room G137. Enter the building at door 6.

Classes will be from 6:15 to 9:15 in the evening except for 9/30 and 10/21 those classes will be from 8:15 in the morning to 3:15 in the afternoon. Lunch will be served.

Please Call **Shari Rather** to register at **262-548-7267**.

Jesse's Corner

Jesse Mireles - Manager of the Children and Family Division



I was recently informed that surrounding counties are using some of our licensed foster homes for their foster children. In order for any other county to use your home for a foster care placement, they need to contact our Department and ask for permission. Shari Rather, foster care coordinator and Lisa Alden, Permanency Services Supervisor review these requests and make the final decision. Shari or Lisa will ask if you want to take a foster child from another county. If you agree, it will be noted in your foster home record and your home will be considered for a placement by another county. We will take every request individually and make decisions on case specific basis. If approved, we will give your name and any background information to the referring county and ask them to contact you directly. Once that occurs, that county has the responsibility to make case decisions, court, case management, counseling and provide any other information, support and services you may need to maintain a foster child in your home. Evidently there has been a misunderstanding of the role and responsibility of Waukesha County in these types of cases. Our Department has no case specific involvement or responsibility for any decisions or services that are made or provided. This may be confusing, since all of you have or will have attended our foster home orientation and P.A.C.E. training (Partners in Alternate Care Education) and been given information about our process and how we provide support and services. That being said, you will find that there is a difference in how we provide social work services and how some other counties may provide similar services. I would encourage you to get as much information from the placing agency (county) before taking a foster child. I think this will help minimize any problems or concerns you may experience. I think you may experience some challenges in working with another county since they did not provide the PACE training and they may not have developed a working relationship with you and your family. So, you may want to reconsider taking a child from another county if you think this will be a problem. As always, I will follow up with any concerns you have with another county agency as it may affect some other foster homes licensed by Waukesha County.

Social Worker Spotlight



Val Wozniak

Val grew up in the Northwoods of Wisconsin in a town called Armstrong Creek. She relocated to the Milwaukee/Waukesha area when she began attending UW-Milwaukee. While in school, she had an internship for Forest County Social

Services working with Juvenile delinquents. After graduating in May 2006 with her BSW from UWM, Val has been hired on as the Visitation Coordinator and Case Manager for Waukesha County. Having interned here for Shari Rather from September 2005 – May 2006, Val knows her way around the office. So you may see her for your re-licensing visit or hear her voice when she returns your phone calls.

In the future, Val wants to receive a Master's degree so she is planning to end up back in school for a few years. Ultimately, Val would love to see herself working as a social worker in a school district but until then she is loving the work she is currently doing for the county. Social work is a great challenge for Val, but working with people and truly knowing you're making a difference in the lives of families makes every second worth it.

Although lacking spare time, when she does have a free moment she tends to head up north to spend time with her family, and other friends. She enjoys being outside and loves to take vacations whenever possible.

Thank you to our Foster Care Newsletter Print Sponsor!

AmeriSign & Graphics
DESIGN • PRINT • SIGNS • WEB

PRINTING
SIGNS
COLOR COPIES
BANNERS
ENGRAVING
POP DISPLAYS

6657 N. SIDNEY PL.
MILWAUKEE, WI 53209
P. 414-228-0833
F. 414-228-8655

AMERISIGNANDGRAPHICS.COM

Know the Rules... School Safety Tips

1. Always TAKE A FRIEND with you when walking or riding your bike to and from school. It's safer and more fun to be with your friends. Walk and ride in well-lit areas, and never take short cuts. When walking and biking stay aware of your surroundings and observe all traffic rules in place to more safely share the roads and sidewalks with others.

2. Stay with a group while waiting at the bus stop. If anyone bothers you while going to or from school, get away from that person, and TELL a trusted adult like your parents, guardians, or teacher. If an adult approaches you for help or directions, remember grownups needing help should not ask children for help; they should ask other adults.

3. If someone you don't know or feel comfortable with offers you a ride, say NO. Never hitchhike, and only accept a ride from someone if your parents or guardians told you it is okay.

4. If someone follows you on foot, get away from him or her as quickly as you can. If someone follows you in a car, turn around and go in the other direction. Always be sure to TELL your parents, guardians, or another trusted adult what happened.

5. If someone tries to take you somewhere, quickly get away and yell, "This person is trying to take me away!" or "This person is not my father/mother/guardian!"

6. Never leave school with someone you don't feel comfortable with or know. Always CHECK FIRST with your parents, guardians, or another trusted adult. If someone you don't know or feel comfort-

able with tells you that there is an emergency and they want you to go with them, always CHECK FIRST before you do anything. Make sure you TELL a trusted adult if you notice someone you don't know hanging around.

7. Leave items and clothing with your name on them at home. If someone you don't know calls out your name, don't be fooled or confused.

8. If you want to change your plans after school, always CHECK FIRST with your parents or guardians. Never play in parks, malls, or video

arcades by yourself. Make sure that you always play with other children, have your parents' or guardians' permission to play in specific areas, and always let them know where you are going to be. Never accept money or gifts from anyone until you CHECK FIRST with your parents or guardians.

9. If you go home alone after school, check to see that everything is okay before you go in. Once inside, call your parents or guardians to let them know that you are okay. Make sure you follow your "Home Alone" rules of keeping the door locked; not opening the door for or talking to anyone who stops by unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative, you feel comfortable being alone with that person, and the visit has been preapproved by your parents or guardians; and not telling people who call that you are home alone. Have a neighbor or trusted adult you can call if you're scared or there's an emergency.

10. Trust your feelings. If someone makes you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused, get away as quickly as you can and TELL a trusted adult what happened. You deserve to feel safe, and there will always be someone who can help you.

1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678) www.missingkids.com
Copyright © 1994 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. All rights reserved. This project was supported by Grant No. 2005-MC-CX-K024 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® and 1-800-THE-LOST® are registered service marks of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

